



2021

## TEE BALL

# LOCAL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

**INCLEMENT WEATHER – (910) 424-4500**

**Coaches are to read and be familiar with all rules.**

### **1:00**      **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

1:01      Players, age 5 and 6 are eligible for Tee Ball.

Minimum Age: 5 years old - players must be 5 years old prior May 1st of current playing year.

Maximum Age: 6 years old - players cannot turn 7 years old prior to May 1st of the current playing year.

### **2:00**      **EQUIPMENT**

2:01      The head coach of each team will be issued equipment, if requested. This equipment will include batting helmets, catchers gear, bats and balls.

2:02      In order to be considered for future coaching positions, all HMPR issued equipment *must be returned within 14 days* of a team's last game.

2:03      **STEEL SPIKES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.** Only rubber molded cleats or tennis shoes will be allowed.

### **3:00**      **COACHES**

**ALL PROSPECTIVE COACHES MUST COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION / RELEASE OF INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK FORM. COACHES MUST HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE BACKGROUND CHECK IN ORDER TO BE APPROVED.**

- 3:01 All coaches should understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and policies as established by HMPR.
- 3:02 Coaches are expected to closely observe their players at all times to be certain that the players do not become overly fatigued.
- 3:03 Coaches must set good examples of sportsmanship.
- 3:04 Coaches will not use profane language or smoke on the field or in the dugout during practice or games. Staff will investigate accusations. If verified, coaches will be suspended accordingly.
- 3:05 ***Coaches are expected to have a meeting with the parents to discuss team rules and the expectations that he/she expects the players and parents to follow.*** These rules should cover items such as the practice schedule, attendance policy, disciplinary actions, providing refreshments, whom to call in case of rain, etc. These guidelines must meet the approval of, and a copy on file, with the recreation center before they will be considered valid. Coaches must use discretion and good judgment if they feel it is necessary to suspend a player for violation of team policy.

**4:00**

**POSTPONED GAMES/INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- 4:01 In case of inclement weather, coaches and parents should call the following number for a decision as to whether or not the game will be played:  
**(910) 424-4500**  
If no decision is made before 5:00 p.m., teams *should* report to the field and wait for the umpires or field supervisors' decision.
- 4:02 Prior to the start of the game, the field supervisor or *HMPR* staff on duty will have sole authority to postpone or play the game. After the game begins, the field supervisor will monitor field conditions and cancel if needed.
- 4:03 Make-up games will be scheduled by *HMPR*.  
Suspended games, *if rescheduled*, will be resumed from the point of interruption.

**5:00**

**PRACTICE POLICY**

- 5:01 Practices ***should not exceed*** 3 hours per week. Practice must be over by 9:00 p.m.
- 5:02 Due to a request by school principals, players must not arrive to practice earlier than 10 minutes prior to scheduled practice time and must leave school grounds promptly after practice.

6:00

**PLAYING RULES:**

- 6:01 Games will last approximately one (1) hour. The game will end at the one (1) hour time limit regardless of the game situation.
- 6:02 **No score will be kept.** Coaches and parents are discouraged from trying to determine a “winner.” **Everyone wins in Tee Ball.** This league is meant to create a foundation for the sport, where the players have a non-competitive and fun experience.
- 6:03 The “ALL BAT” policy will apply. Every player gets one (1) turn at bat in each inning. A time at bat for the last batter is over when they are put out, stopped, or the player goes completely around the bases.
- 6:04 Each player will be thrown 3 pitches from a standing or one knee position. Pitches can be delivered overhand or underhand. If, after 3 pitches, the player has not been able to put the ball into play then the Tee will be used. The player will receive 2 swings off the Tee. If the player does not hit the ball off the Tee after 2 swings, the at-bat is complete.
- 6:05 To promote defensive play, if a runner is thrown/tagged “out” they will abandon the base and return to the dugout.
- 6:06 Player’s should take regular field positions. All other players should be positioned in the outfield. **EXCEPTION:** Two (2) players in the pitcher/fielder position. These players should be positioned no closer than the 25’ pitching rubber and behind the Coach Pitcher.
- 6:07 Players should not be allowed to “roll” the ball underhand to any base in an attempt to make an out. Over throws (misses) at 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and home plate are only a single base advancement and the ball is declared dead. Teach the concept of the game.
- 6:08 The Coach Pitcher should exit the playing field immediately after a hit, to prevent distraction and/or be an obstacle. If the Coach Pitcher is struck by the batted ball - the ball is dead, the runners return and the play will be redone. If struck by a thrown ball – the ball is dead, runners stop at the base.
- 6:09 **OFFENSIVE COACHES (2)**  
These coaches will occupy the base’s coach’s box. The Coach Pitcher will only “coach” a player coming to home plate after removing the Tee and bat from the home plate area. One (1) coach/team parent should always be in the dugout with the other players.
- 6:10 **DEFENSIVE COACHES**  
These coaches may be in the outfield grass and should be stationed down the foul lines or behind the players in the outfield.

- 6:11      **PARTICIPATION RULE:**  
Each player shall play defense in all innings and bat their turn in the batting line-up.
- 6:12      Each team should keep one (1) ball as a game ball.

## **Fun Facts About Kids and Sports**

- ☺ Sports can build character in kids **if** their social environment encourages moral and ethical behavior.
- ☺ The most common reasons kids play sports are to have fun and hang out with friends.
- NCAA fact: 3-5% of high school athletes will play college sports (3-5 per 100).
- NCAA fact: .02%-.09% of college athletes will be drafted by a professional team (2-9 per 1000).
- 70% of kids drop out of sports by the age of 13.
- 15-20% of youth sporting events involve some kind of behavior that requires a written notice (National Alliance of Youth Sports).
- The least favorite aspect of the game for kids is the ride home with parents.
- ☺ A child's behavior is a reflection of what they have seen an adult do before. Please be a positive example to your children and players.

# Code of Conduct

The Town of Hope Mills' recreational sports and activities are made available to youth and adults to enjoy fun and wholesome recreational programming that teaches character and sportsmanship. The Town of Hope Mills supports the belief that all recreational programming and experiences should be positive and safe with sportsmanship and enjoyment the primary goal. To achieve this goal, The Town of Hope Mills strives to provide a safe environment for participants of these programs and to protect them from harm to the best of our abilities. To that end, all participants and spectators must be held accountable for their behavior and zero tolerance given for intentional violation of this Code of Conduct.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

- Treat all parties involved with dignity and respect.
- Use appropriate language, tones and volume when communicating. When in doubt, remain silent.
- Become knowledgeable, understanding and supportive of all established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures applicable to related programming.
- Recognize/acknowledge HMPR programming as a privilege that can be rescinded for the greater good.

Unfortunately, aggressive behavior is on the rise in recreational programming. Negative attitudes, verbal abuse of officials, poor sportsmanship, profanity, child predators and violence are casting a negative light in our arena. It is for that reason penalties have been assessed and will be enforced for acts perceived by HMPR as intentional violations.

## **PROCEDURES**

- When an incident occurs at a Town of Hope Mills activity/event, the Town officials have the authority to institute immediate suspensions. The Town of Hope Mills officials will offer to escort the offending individual(s) from the facility. If the offending individual(s) refuses to leave the premises, local authorities will be contacted immediately and asked to enforce the ruling.
- Individual(s) removed from the facility in this manner will be sent a registered letter stating the violation of policy and the penalty in effect. The individual(s) will then have forty-eight (48) hours from receipt of the letter to respond to the Town of Hope Mills Recreation Department with a written appeal.
- After the written appeal is received, an investigation will be conducted and the Town of Hope Mills Recreation Department will render a final decision within ten (10) working days from receipt of the appeal.
- A panel consisting of the facility supervisor, program supervisor, immediate supervisory staff and a department superintendent will conduct the investigation. During the investigation, the individual(s) will be suspended from all Town of Hope Mills activities/events/facilities. Individual(s) requesting the appeal may be asked to appear before an appeal review committee led by the Parks and Recreation Director. This decision will be final.
- Suspensions of less than ten (10) days cannot be appealed.

It is Parks and Recreation Department's sincere desire that situations never warrant the removal of an individual from any activity, event or facility. However, it is our obligation to maintain a controlled, safe and healthy atmosphere for everyone. Recreational activities are designed to foster qualities such as character building, social interaction, enjoyment and relaxation while educating the general public and promoting healthy lifestyles. These

activities are not designed to be overly competitive and the Town of Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Department does not promote this contention.

## **OFFENSE & PENALTY (to include but not limited to:)**

### **Level 1 - *Standard***

- Offense - Failure to follow departmental established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures as applicable to related programming; failure to comply with a Town of Hope Mills official's decision; taunting/mocking/harassment of players; disgruntled expressions such as rude gestures or comments, screaming and loudly disagreeing with others or obscene/profane/vulgar language; throwing/kicking/striking of bats, balls and other miscellaneous equipment; unnecessary roughness among participants.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum ten (10) day suspension.

### **Level 2 - *Verbal***

- Offense - Malicious obscene/profane/vulgar verbal abuse directed towards another individual; verbal epithets related to race, color, religion, creed, gender or sexual orientation; verbal communication of threats, physical violence or acts of insulting another with intention to offend, defame or embarrass.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum thirty (30) day suspension.

### **Level 3 - *Physical***

- Offense - Physical aggression towards another; pushing, shoving, striking or touching another individual with the perceived intent to incite, inflict or cause harm; invading another individual's personal space during a dispute.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one hundred eighty day (180) day suspension.

### **Level 4 - *Unlawful***

- Offense - Any violation of North Carolina law; possession of firearms, knives, explosive devices weapons or under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, controlled substances, chemical or drug paraphernalia; assault with or without a weapon.
- Penalty - Not necessarily preceded by a warning...immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one (1) year suspension.

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: Suspensions will be tracked and monitored. Individuals who have been suspended will be immediately placed on probationary status for a period of one (1) year from the date of the offense. A second offense by the same individual within one (1) year, regardless of nature, will result in double the term of the penalty and an extension of probationary period from the date of the second offense. A third violation by the same individual within one (1) year, regardless of nature, will void all Town of Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Department's privileges indefinitely. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in legal action. \*\*\***

Effective Implementation - January 2007  
HMPR Advisory Board